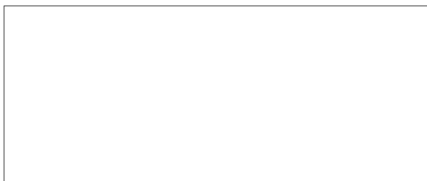


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1 February 1956



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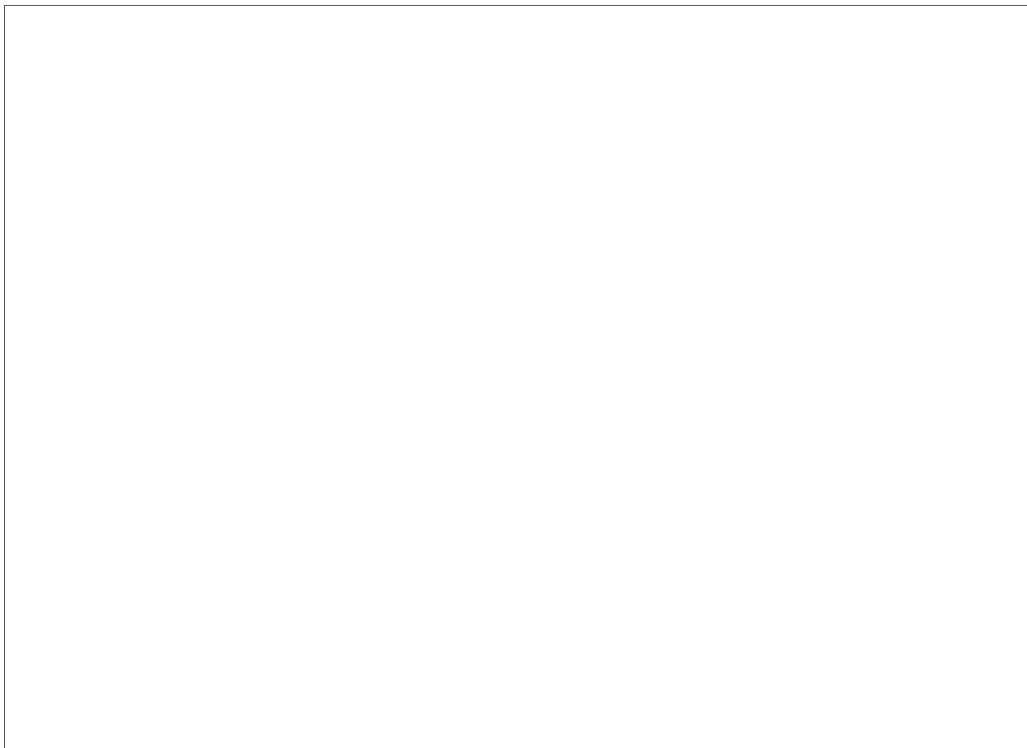
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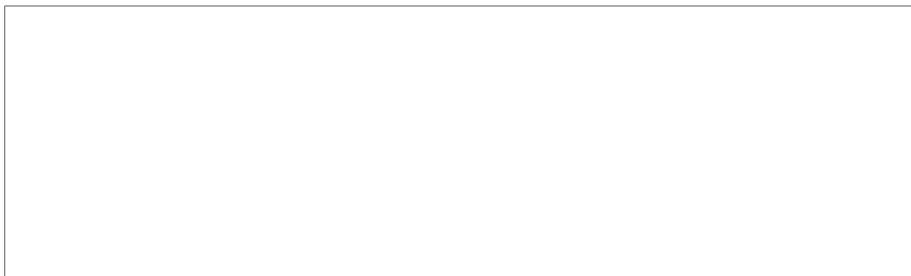
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CONTENTS


1. KISHI SEEN AS HATOYAMA'S SUCCESSOR [REDACTED]
(page 3).

2. MOSCOW AGREES TO HELP VIET MINH IN PROP-
AGANDIZING AGAINST ELECTIONS IN THE SOUTH
[REDACTED] (page 4).

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
[REDACTED] (page 5)

1. KISHI SEEN AS HATOYAMA'S SUCCESSOR

 The death of Taketora Ogata, former deputy prime minister, has made Shinsuke Kishi, secretary general of the Liberal-Democratic Party, the leading candidate to succeed Hatoyama as prime minister of Japan. Ambassador Allison reports that in order to appease the ex-Liberals who are dissatisfied with Hatoyama, arrangements might be made for Kishi to succeed Hatoyama following the Upper House elections in June.

Allison discounts the concern of the Japanese press that Ogata's death will result in a loosening of ties with the US. He notes that strong elements among the conservatives will continue to oppose a "soft" policy toward the Orbit.

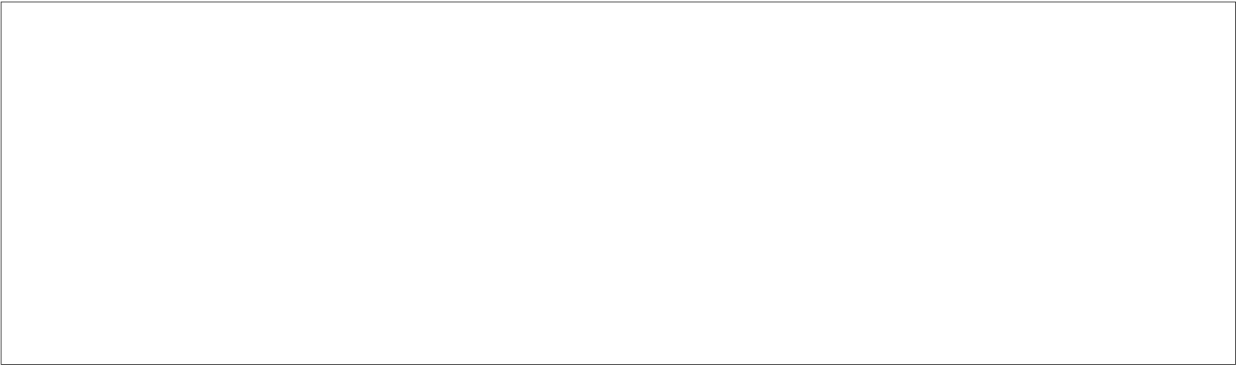
Comment

Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Ichiro Kono, party leader Bukichi Miki and Kishi are the real powers in conservative Japanese politics. Kishi, a leading promoter of the successful conservative merger which took place last November, has been careful to maintain a broad base of support among the various conservative factions.

A former cabinet minister under Tojo who spent two years in prison as a war crimes suspect, Kishi has often asserted that he favors co-operation with the United States. He has also stated, however, that the United States must recognize--and help Japan to overcome--his country's "economic and spiritual weaknesses," for which he blames the occupation in part.

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**2. MOSCOW AGREES TO HELP VIET MINH IN PROP-
AGANDIZING AGAINST ELECTIONS IN THE SOUTH**



Comment

Although the Viet Minh has been attacking President Diem's plans to hold elections for an assembly on 4 March, Soviet propaganda treatment of the issue has been perfunctory.

Increased Communist propaganda attacks on the elections may be connected with support for Chou En-lai's demand that another Geneva conference on Indochina be convened. A Polish truce official in South Vietnam has reportedly hinted that in any new conference, the Communists would propose a postponement of unification elections in return for an agreement on economic co-operation between the two zones and neutralization.

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 31 January)

[redacted]

while there is in Israel an awareness that events are moving toward a climax, there are few specific indications that Israel is preparing for long-drawn-out hostilities in the immediate future. [redacted]

All Egyptian army camps in the southern portion of the Suez Canal zone have been emptied of tanks and armored vehicles. [redacted]

[redacted] Forty-seven Sherman tanks have been observed [redacted] moving into the Sinai Peninsula, and 21 Soviet T-34 tanks were identified on flatcars passing northward through the zone. These and other reports lead [redacted] to the conclusion that an "almost total build-up" of Egyptian forces in Sinai may be under way. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

The quantity of Soviet arms expected to arrive in Egypt in the near future requires new storage areas in addition to the Dukheila air base near Alexandria. [redacted]

storage facilities at Dukheila are being taxed to capacity, and other areas near Cairo and in the Suez Canal zone are under consideration. Earlier reports have suggested the possibility that Soviet bloc shipments have been or might be diverted from Alexandria to the canal zone, which is much closer to the scene of operations against Israel. [redacted]

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